

News Release

South Seattle Community College

6000 16th Avenue, SW, Seattle, WA 98106-1499 • www.southseattle.edu • (206) 764-5300

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2010

Political Empowerment – Process & Strategies

Nancy Amidei heads list of guest speakers.

Saturdays, three sessions – October 9 & 23, November 16, 2010

9 am – 1 pm

South Seattle Community College

6000-16th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98106

Class fee: \$65

Contact: (206) 764-5339

lmotten@sccd.ctc.edu / LearnatSouth.org

Well known former State Representative and activist Velma Veloria and educator/activist Alice Tan Coil have teamed up again to offer another informative and engaging ***Political Empowerment – Process & Strategies*** course. The non-credit class, offered through South Seattle Community College's Continuing Education Department, will demystify the political and policy making process, enabling students to recognize their own leadership potential, gain confidence in their ability to participate in the public sectors, and advocate for change.

This course offers interactive learning opportunities by engaging community leaders in public and private sectors to share their skills and experience, using hands-on activities to assist participants with developing specific leadership skills, and inspiring a new generation of community leaders who choose to lead and work for positive change at local, state, and national levels.

Kicking off the fall sessions will be guest speaker Nancy Amidei, director of the Civic Engagement Project and retired senior lecturer in the University of Washington School Of Social Work. The 2008 recipient of the UW's Outstanding Public Service Award, Amidei's long history of public service includes involvement in social policy from both inside and outside government. She was deputy assistant secretary for legislation in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, staff director of the U.S. Senate Selection Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, and executive director of the Food Research and Action Center.

Among her published writings is a guide to policy advocacy, ***So You Want to Make a Difference*** and a play, ***How Ms. Bill became a Law***.

Additional speakers will be announced.

A unique feature of this course is the opportunity to interact with community leaders and learn from veteran insiders about their journeys and passion for public service. Guest speakers in the

first course held last spring included State Representative Phyllis Kenney, King County Councilmember Larry Gossett, Seattle City Councilmember Mike O'Brien, and former State Senator Dwight Pelz, currently chair of the Washington State Democrats.

“We created this program to empower the new generation of community leaders,” said Veloria. “And we especially hope it inspires individuals from diverse racial, cultural, educational, professional, and socio-economic backgrounds – those who, in the past, may have not seen themselves as participants in the political process.”

This class is for everyone with an interest in the political process! No prior knowledge required.

Register online at www.LearnAtSouth.org, or call (260) 764-5339 for more information.

Velma Veloria

Philippine-born **Velma Veloria** was the first Filipina American to serve in the Washington State Legislature (1992-2004). Among her many accomplishments during that time was the passage of the anti-human trafficking legislation, making the State of Washington the first state in the nation to make human trafficking illegal. She also authored legislation that created a Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy.

As a former labor organizer, Veloria has a demonstrated track record of successfully educating the broader community on important working family issues and lobbying for passage of legislation to support families. She is a skilled leader, adept at motivating and mentoring a multicultural workforce to become aware of their potentials. Her passions are sharing knowledge and information, while working with people to empower themselves.

Alice Tan Coil

For over two decades, Alice Tan Coil has been active in community organizations and projects that promote intercultural relations, leadership development, and social justice. She has partnered with educators and community leaders to educate and empower the next generation of women in pursuit of political and public leadership. Coil is currently program specialist for the University of Puget Sound's Race and Pedagogy Initiative, a program designed to weave together scholarship and action in order to reduce racism and improve pedagogical practices at all educational levels.

South Seattle Community College

The college's Continuing Education division offers 150 classes each quarter, ranging from computer skills to cooking to home repair. Designed to fit into busy schedules, these classes offer the lifelong learner variety and flexibility, with online and classroom instruction.



Velma Veloria